

ALEXANDER MCKEE.

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APRIL 28, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. BELKNAP, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 6317.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6317) to remove the charge of desertion existing against Alexander McKee, late a private in Company B, Fifty-ninth Indiana Volunteers, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to remove the charge of desertion of record against Alexander McKee, late a private in Company B, Fifty-ninth Indiana Volunteers. The soldier enlisted in said company August 28, 1861, at the age of 16 years. At the election of a second lieutenant he had a difference with First Lieutenant McDade, who was afterwards promoted to the captaincy of the company, who remained unfriendly to the soldier and frequently mistreated him. Said McKee went with his company as far as New Madrid, Mo., and went into the fight at that place and remained all day while sick and with a high fever. That night he was taken much worse and was so sick that he fainted. From that place he was given a furlough and returned to Evansville, Ind., from which place he returned to his company at Corinth and marched from Oxford, Miss., to Memphis, Tenn. He was sick and gave out on the march. The captain refused to let him ride, left him on the roadside, cursed him, and said he did not care if he died.

A colored man took him back to Memphis. He went home from there January 16, 1863, and was sick and under care of a doctor for two months. He remained until June, 1863, at which time he had sufficiently recovered his health to reenter the service. He then joined Company I, Sixteenth Illinois Cavalry Volunteers, under an assumed name, William H. McBride, his reason given for so doing being that his captain continually mistreated him, and he could not serve with any peace. He took the assumed name because he was afraid he would be detected and prosecuted. He remained with this company in the service until he was honorably mustered out in June, 1865. He received no bounty, except \$100, and no pay for a large part of his first service. His neighbors file the following statement in his behalf, signed by John D. Alexander, R. W. Miers, M. C., and 36 others.

BEDFORD, IND., March 12, 1898.

Hon. ROBERT W. MIERS,

*Congressman Second Congressional District of Indiana, Washington, D. C. :*

We, the undersigned ex-soldiers and citizens of Bedford, Lawrence County, Ind., hereby certify that Alexander C. McKee, late of Company B, Fifty-ninth Indiana Infantry Volunteers, and of Company I, Sixteenth Illinois Cavalry Volunteers, is a resident of Bedford, said county and State, and has been a bona fide resident of the city of Bedford, in said county and State, for five years last past, and that we are well acquainted with him and know that his reputation for honesty and for truth and veracity is good, and that he is honest and upright in all his dealings with his fellow-men, and that we do believe and would believe any statement he might make in reference to his army record or any other.

John D. Alexander, late captain of Company D, Ninety-seventh Indiana Volunteers; S. B. Lowe, attorney; Newton Crook, attorney; Fred. N. Fletcher, attorney; Samuel Wires, Company H, One-hundred and thirty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry; Richard Fisher, Company G, Fourth Cavalry, Seventy-seventh Regiment; J. Frank Smith, deputy sheriff; W. H. West, trustee Shanswiche Township; S. A. Snyder, Company K, Eighty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry; John Malott, Company A, Sixty-seventh Indiana Volunteers; T. O. Daggy, treasurer Lawrence County; Geo. W. McDaniel, James McClelland, John M. Gainey, late Company D, Fourteenth Indiana Volunteers; Isaac N. Glover, cashier Stone City Bank; Isaac H. Crim, clerk Lawrence circuit court; A. C. Voris, president Citizens' Bank of Bedford; T. H. Anderson, jeweler; E. D. Mitchell, druggist; V. V. Williams, lieutenant-colonel One hundred and forty-fifth Indiana Infantry; William H. Hilton, W. M. Dobbins, C. M. Dobbins, hardware; John W. Acoam, Fourth Indiana Cavalry; Jno. D. Williams, William H. Martin, judge tenth circuit, Indiana; E. R. Dobbins, sheriff Lawrence County; Jno. L. Tilford, hardware and stoves; D. F. Tilford, hardware and stoves; J. R. Mathes, hardware; John C. McKinney, grocery; D. R. Bowden, late captain Company B, Eighteenth Indiana Infantry; Maurice Blackburn, Company A, Sixty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteers; Joseph Giles, attorney; R. N. Palmer, attorney; C. C. Matson, late colonel Sixth Indiana Cavalry; Alvarian Darnall, Company A, Sixty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteers.

I am personally well acquainted with Mr. Alexander McKee and fully join in and concur in the above statement.

R. W. MIERS,  
*Member Congress, Indiana.*

Your committee believe that said soldier did not leave his service in Company B, Fifty-ninth Indiana Volunteers, with the purpose of deserting. When he recovered from the sickness he immediately went into the United States service in another regiment to get rid of the officer who had mistreated him. He stayed in the service and was a good and faithful soldier until he was honorably mustered out in June, 1865.

Your committee recommend that the bill be amended by adding the following:

*Provided, That no pay, bounty, or other emoluments shall become due or payable by virtue of the passage of this act.*

and when so amended that the bill do pass.